

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS
STATEWIDE UNIFIED RESPONSE GROUP
(BHHSURG)**

COVID-19 UPDATE

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Agenda

- **Katy Miller, Regional Coordinator
US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)**
COVID-19: Lessons Learned
- **Discussion with County Homeless Coordinators:**
 - Marc Alexander, Executive Director, Mayor's Office of Housing, City & County of Honolulu
 - Sharon Hirota, Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor, County of Hawai'i
 - Christopher Kish, Homeless Program Specialist, Department of Housing and Human Concerns, County of Maui
 - Ashton Varner, Homeless Coordinator, Kaua'i County Housing Agency, County of Kaua'i

COVID-19: Lessons Learned

Katy Miller, Regional Coordinator
US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

COVID-19: Lessons Learned

July 20, 2020

Katy Miller, Regional Coordinator





Impact of COVID-19 on People Experiencing Homelessness

- Our goal has been to save lives and make sure that the emergency medical system is not overwhelmed.
- We have not seen the same rate of COVID-19 cases among people experiencing homelessness.
- We continue to monitor hot spots and provide support to agencies and local governments to insure that they have the tools and resources they need to respond.
- As of June 30th, there were a reported 4,845 positive COVID-19 cases and 130 deaths among the homeless population nationally.



Key Observations and Lessons Learned

Communities have been able to mitigate the impact on people experiencing homelessness by:

- Rapid implementation of CDC protocols for de-intensifying shelters, access to hygiene supplies and cleaning, providing Isolation and Quarantine, testing, and encampment response
- Working across health and homelessness systems to leverage expertise, resources, and eliminate communication barriers for fast decisions



Shifting from Crisis Response to Long-Term Planning

- Continue to follow CDC guidance
- Remain diligent on wearing masks, social distancing, and hand washing
- Rapidly respond using data and science to drive decisions around testing and interventions
- Screen for symptoms and educate everyone on what to look for
- Continued low-barrier access to testing and Isolation and Quarantine spaces if a person is COVID positive (Scale and Flex I/Q as needed)



Shifting from Crisis Response to Long-Term Planning

- Continue to maintain adequate space in shelters and meal programs
- Relieve staff fatigue and non profit capacity/staffing challenges
- Identify and provide safety to those most vulnerable among the homeless population
- Continue outreach, education, and hygiene services to help people experiencing unsheltered homelessness stay safe
- Minimize movement of unsheltered populations
- Location/ contact tracing to notify those who may have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19



Shifting from Crisis Response to Long-Term Planning

- Help people experiencing homelessness move quickly to permanent housing
- Continue strong contact with those in permanent housing so that they can maintain stability
- Track and share local data widely and respond quickly
- Work across public and private agencies, systems, and sectors to leverage new federal, state, and local resources and act with urgency
- Coordinate and maximize funding
- Ensure that everyone gets the Flu shot in the fall



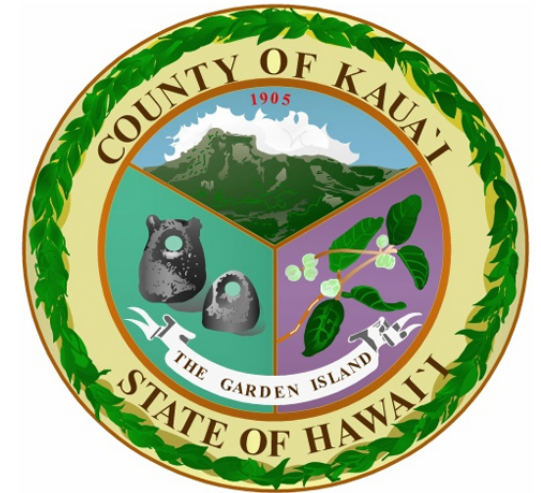
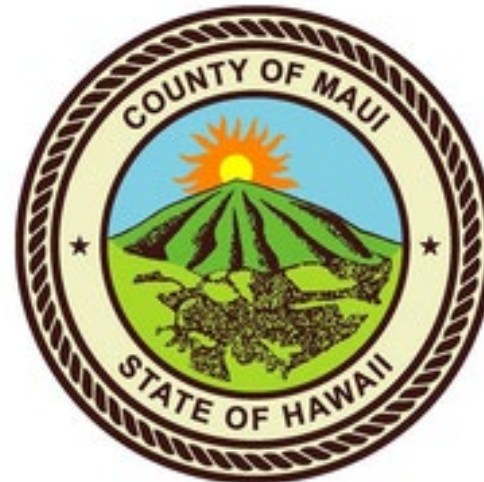
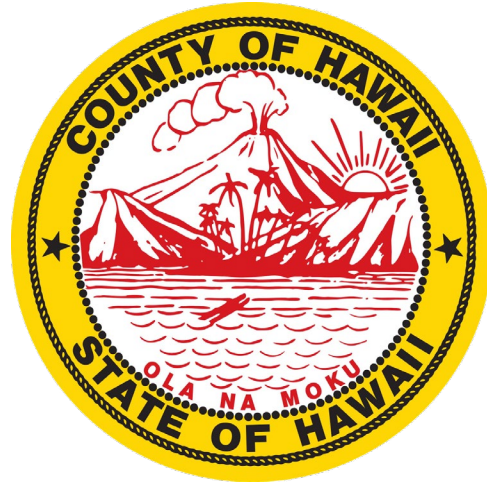
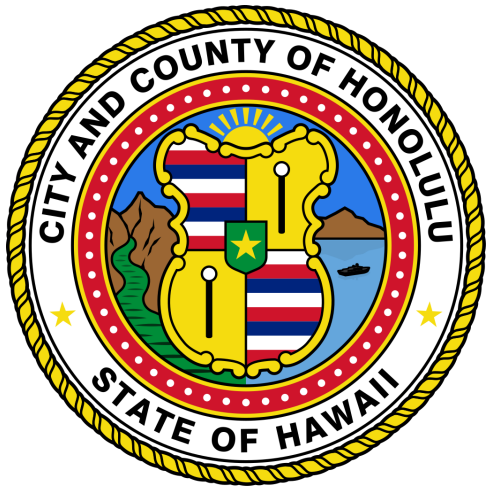
Resources

- **CDC Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers to Plan and Respond to COVID-19:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/plan-prepare-respond.html>
- **HUD COVID-19 Resources:** https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=f20e5d5591-SNAPS-COVID-19-Digest-04-13-2020&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-f20e5d5591-19545533#covid-19-key-resources
- **USICH COVID-19 Resources:** <https://www.usich.gov/covid-19>



www.usich.gov

Discussion with County Coordinators



Mahalo





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#HealthyWeLiveHawaii **#SocialDistancing**
#FlattenTheCurve **#TogetherWeCan**

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